American Beekeeping Federation NEWSLETTER

January/February 2011 • Vol. 69, No. 1

Galveston Conference Sees Record Attendance

Beekeepers Gather Together in Texas for a Sweet Future

A record-setting crowd of over 1,100 was on hand for the 2011 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow in Galveston, Texas, January 4-8. The conference played host to the annual meetings of the American Beekeeping Federation, the American Honey Producers Association, the Canadian Honey Council, the Apiary Inspectors of America, the Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists and the American Association of Professional Apiculturists. It included the America Bee Research Conference and various other smaller meetings.

This was the second occasion for the ABF and AHPA to meet jointly, as well as the second joint gathering of the ABF and CHC. Another joint meeting of the ABF and AHPA at some future date was discussed, but no firm plans have been set. Plans are already in full swing for the 2012 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow, which will be held at the Rio All-Suite Casino Resort in Las Vegas, Jan. 10-14, 2012. The latest conference information will be posted to the ABF Web site at abfnet.org soon.

During the conference, the ABF membership re-elected President David Mendes of North Fort Myers, Fla., and Vice President George Hansen of Colton, Ore. New members of the ABF Board of Directors are: Gene Brandi, Los Banos, Calif., appointed by the president; A.J. Howery, Kailua Kona, Hawaii, elected by the Package Bee and Queen Breeders Shared Interest Group; Tim Tucker, Niotaze, Kan., elected by the Commercial Beekeepers SIG; and Shannon Wooten, Palo Cedro, Calif., elected by the State Delegates Assembly. (See page 2 for a full list of the 2011 ABF Board of Directors).

At the ABF Annual Business Meeting, several new resolutions were adopted, including:

- A focus on maintaining the National Honey Bee Pest Survey and that the ABF urgently request Congress to adequately fund and USDA-APHIS to implement and maintain such a survey for this much needed baseline, not only for Tropilaelaps clareae, but for virus complexes and varroa species and their variants, as well as other as yet unknown organisms capable of adversely affecting honey bee health.
- The ABF's request that USDA-APHIS continue to protect American agriculture by keeping borders closed to honey bee introductions until such time as science can identify the impact of viruses and other pathogens to beekeeping.
- The ABF go on record in favor of approval to maintain Glyphosate-Tolerant (GT) alfalfa's status as a regulated article, and express strong opposition to option to deregulate GT alfalfa and strong opposition deregulate GT alfalfa with geographic restrictions and isolation distances for the production of GT alfalfa by filing appropriate comments with USDA-APHIS before Jan. 16, 2011, and that ABF monitor the development of additional genetically engineered crops, assess their potential hazards to pollinators and the environment, and cooperate with other groups and organizations in pursuit of the aims of reducing the perils of genetically engineered crops and their attendant management practices for pollinators and the resources upon which pollinators depend.

A full copy of the 2011 ABF Resolutions, including the ABF Continuing Objectives and the Continuing Resolutions, is available upon request from the ABF office. They are also posted on the ABF Web site.

(continued on page 8)

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Number in parentheses next to Director's name indicates the year the Director's current term ends – and whether in their 1st or 2nd term.
Directors Brandi, Tucker, Talbert and Wooten, along with the officers, comprise the ABF Executive Committee.

American Beekeeping Federation
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From the President

By Dave Mendes, ABF President

Dave Mendes
ABF President

It was wonderful to see so many people at the conference in Galveston. Joint conferences are a lot of work for those of us on the Conference Committee, but we keep hearing from the membership that this is something that you want. The general plan for the future appears to indicate that ABF and AHPA will try to meet together every third year and I hope the location will be somewhere near the middle of the country again. In the alternating years, we hope to "go west" one year and "go east" the other. This is working out well with 2010 in Orlando, 2011 in Galveston and 2012 in Las Vegas. We have begun to look for an East Coast location for 2013. I will keep you posted on this.

As I write this in early February, many hives are moving to California for almond pollination. Early indications are that there will be an adequate supply of bees this year. I have heard many horror stories of 70 percent plus losses in some outfits. I have also heard some beekeepers say that they have their best bees this season. My own operation is somewhere in the middle. I have lots of good hives and some that just won't grow properly. I am hearing this same thing from other beekeepers. The maddening part of this situation is that most of us cannot point to management differences to explain hive quality. They all get the same feed, new queens, new comb and medications. Some grow like they should…some don't. I have always been in the pollination business. A key ingredient to satisfying grower expectations is to have consistently strong hives. This has become much more difficult to accomplish.

I have some ideas on factors that contribute to better bees. Keeping hives in "the woods" when they are not on a paid pollination has helped quite a bit. I expect the possibilities of more varied pollens and lower exposure to pesticides make a big difference. But, since my hives spend part of the year in an agricultural environment, they still "run the gauntlet" of poor diet and toxic exposure. I am feeding much more today than ever before. Whenever there is no natural honey flow, I provide protein patties or syrup. I have often described this constant feeding as "life support" for a beehive. We can get away with year-round feeding in Florida winters, but many other parts of the country can't. If we pull the plug on the feed, I have found that hives start to shrink fairly quickly. It is not enough for us to keep a box of honey on our hives – there is something about new food coming into the hive that seems to make a difference.

We now requeen our hives twice a year. This was unheard of a few years ago, but has now become common for many commercial beekeepers. Of course, maybe we should not call it "requeening" but rather "rebuilding," since we are making splits twice a year with new queens. We don't wait for the queens to fail, but rather split most of our bees in the spring and fall.

Over the last few years I have proven that new queens in August and September result in better growth for almond pollination. In April and May we have to split again to control swarming. Most of the time we make splits with queen cells to break the brood cycle and interrupt the varroa life cycle. It is unusual for us to go more than two weeks any time of the year without checking our hives. There is no "off season" for us anymore. Still, with all this work and cost per hive, not all of our hives are successful. I am sure that something is very wrong with our bees. Many researchers are working on this, but have no conclusive answers yet.

We had some special visitors in Galveston from the EPA. Don Brady, Tom Steiger and Tom Moriarty came to listen to beekeeper concerns. The National Honey Bee Advisory Board (NHBAB) has been working closely with these people to develop better policies to protect honey bees from pesticide damage. It is very important for beekeepers to share their experiences with EPA.

I have heard many stories from beekeepers of problems they had with their bees after they were exposed to agricultural chemicals in vine crops, cranberries, apples, soybeans, alfalfa and corn. My own experience tells me that Florida citrus has become a dangerous place to keep bees now that growers are spraying often to combat citrus greening. I know the joke about the government

(continued on page 11)

From the Vice President

by George Hansen, ABF Vice President

George Hansen
ABF Vice President

As I am bending over a hive with the sun on my back, I see the first bees returning with pollen and the unease of the nervous season dissolves. I am in California preparing our hives for almond pollination. Thankfully, our bees have wintered well. Our losses are minimal, and colony strength is good. There are rumors of losses and a scramble for any extra hives is starting. In the pre-bloom period this year, we have lucked out with a long stretch of dry moderate weather. That translates into long days in the beeyard. Dry orchard roads have made placements in even the most difficult locations easier than usual. And we have not come across any dead pigs anywhere. At moments like this, one should be cataloging lessons learned, and sorting hunches and evidence of successful and unsuccessful practices.

So much of what we do as beekeepers for winter preparation resembles the rituals a baseball batter goes through before taking a pitch. Each player has a series of unique motions, redoing straps, adjusting the hat, kicking dirt around, adjusting this and that, crossing themselves and so on. What part of all that is truly important? But, a batter on a streak doesn't dare to change the routine for fear of omitting the one thing that really counts.

Determining what really matters in hive management is the key. After hearing the presentations at Galveston, even with all the latest, there are so many questions unanswered. What really matters? Does Fumidil really work? What pesticides and at what levels and combinations are harmful to bees and in what ways? What viruses matter and what can we do about them, and what economic thresholds can we use for pest and pathogen IPM?

Of course there is no silver bullet. But, there are successful beekeepers seemingly able to reliably deliver quality year in and year out, even while others seem to have perennial problems. The first instinct is to send the investigators out to look at the failing hives. After several years of conflicting theories about what is happening in these crashes, it is time to spend some effort cataloging what can be learned from those that don't seem to have problems. Beekeepers have a vibrant information exchange that serves us well. But, the anecdotes from these communications fail to give the sum total of impact, so the true story is never told. Hopefully, there are some efforts afoot to create a best management database that will be of real value in establishing what really matters in maintaining hive quality.

As I write this, it seems the West Coast is the only part of the country with weather fit for bees. It would be hard to convince me that these severe storms won't have an impact on hives in those areas. But, speaking of impact, the current round of budget battles at the federal level may create a disaster for bee research funding, as well as programs that create bee forage through conservation and other farm programs.

I and others in the Federation leadership will be making visits to Washington, D.C., to make our case. There are some programs that are absolutely essential to our industry for the continued viability of the honeybee in the United States. For example, there are petitions pending from a number of countries to ship queens and bees into the United States. Because of our trade agreements, we can only close our borders to bees if we have a comprehensive survey done in our country to determine we are free of a pest or pathogen that will be introduced in the petitioner's bees. APHIS has not completed that survey, and the funding for its completion has not been appropriated. Now, there is a move to cut even deeper into the current budget, even as the next Farm Bill is being formulated. This is a huge issue that could impact every beekeeper in the country. Please respond to the calls for letters to your representative on this and other issues.

As we move out of our nervous season, we must not lose sight of the big picture. Bees seem to over achieve when challenged by a disaster. We need to remember the lessons learned and remain focused on our issues, even as the sun warms our backs and the first pollen is brought back to the hives.

Keys to Successful Government Relations

by Troy Fore, ABF Director of Government Relations

Troy Fore, ABF Director of Government Relations

When you set out to influence legislative action – whether in Congress or in your state legislature – you will quickly find that you have a lot of competition.

First, you will have competition for the legislator's attention. There are dozens, even hundreds, of people and organizations who are also vying for that precious commodity: time. All office-holders have a finite amount of it, even when aided by multiple staff members. Don't waste their time; they will appreciate that.

Second, you will have competition for funding. Funds are in short supply at all levels of government. Budgets are tight and are likely to remain tight for the foreseeable future. Many otherwise worthwhile projects will go unfunded. Projects thought to be safe from budget cuts will be moved to the back burner – if they even stay on the stove. The key to both of these obstacles is preparation.

Build channels of communication with your state and federal legislators. Don't wait until you have a crisis to make contact. You shouldn't be a pest, but you should be in touch with the legislator's office from time to time. With respect to Congress, each member has one of more district or state offices. Start there. Your message will be forwarded to Washington, if appropriate, and that forwarded message will have more weight, since it was reviewed at the local level and found worthwhile. Get the local staffers on your side by giving them the first opportunity to solve your issue. That works better that going straight to Washington, then having the Washington office kick your issue back to the district office. At the same time, never be reluctant to go to the top if you feel you are being ignored.

A major aspect of communication is preparation. Know your legislator. The Internet is a great resource. At www.house.gov and www.senate.gov, you can identify your Congressmen and find links to their official Web sites. State legislators likely have similar Internet resources. You can search the Web for news items about them. Learn their interests and legislative goals. Right now, a good icebreaker would be to be able to make some comment on the recent election: "congratulations on re-election," "good to have someone from (town, area of state, occupation, or whatever) in office," and so on.

If your legislator is new to Congress or to the state house, let them know something about you and your beekeeping activities. If you represent a group, how many members do you have? Having a new legislator gives you a ready-made opportunity to make a contact; take advantage of it.

If you have a specific issue to relate, be brief, not more than two pages of information (one is better). If they want more, they will ask. Don't let them be blindsided. If there is an opposing view, note that. They will find out anyway and appreciate your candor.

Three things to remember. Once elected, the legislator is YOUR legislator, no matter how you voted. If you are representing a group, the group's goals come first. Above all: never, ever, mislead a legislator or staff member. Abuse that trust and you may never, ever, regain it. If the ABF can help you, let me know.

Editor's Note: If you believe that the ABF is heading in the right direction, please show your support with a donation. At the Annual ABF Business Meeting in Galveston, those present pledged $16,000 for legislative efforts. If you were not in Galveston, or not at the business meeting, we still need your support. We must energize beekeepers to come together to work collaboratively on the many challenges that we face. In order to move forward, we must ask for your financial support.

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Legislative Fund Contributions

The following ABF members contributed to the ABF Legislative Fund during the months of November and December 2010. These donations enable us to carry out the legislative initiatives that will benefit ABF members and the American beekeeping industry.

Donna Brooks, Ga.
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How to Contact Your Congressional Representative

Representatives

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Ask for your representative's office
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Senate

Write: The Honorable _____
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

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E-mail: To locate and e-mail your representatives and senators, visit www.congress.gov.

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Galveston Conference Sees Record Attendance

(continued from cover)

In addition to multiple networking opportunities and an always-crowded exhibit hall, the ABF crowned 2011 American Honey Queen Teresa Bryson from Pennsylvania, and Allison Adams from Texas was crowned 2011 American Honey Princess.

ABF President Dave Mendes (second from right) and George Hansen (right) prepare to escort the 2010 and 2011 American Honey Queen and Princess into the ABF annual banquet.

Tew: Beekeeping is Undergoing a Cyclical Change

"Varroa and the Internet are driving a sea of change in beekeeping," said the conference keynote speaker, Dr. Jim Tew of Ohio State University. He had titled his presentation "Keeping Bees: Someone Has to Do It."

A great change has come to the industry every 20 to 30 years in the past, with periods of stability in between, he noted. Varroa – its spread and its aftermath – and the Internet and the surge in communications it has brought will be part of the markers of the current era.

Over 55 exhibitors were on hand to share their products and services with conference attendees.

"Beekeepers were ready-made for the Internet," Tew said. As far back as beekeeping publications have existed, he noted, beekeepers have rushed to share information with other beekeepers. Using current tech lingo, he said, "Beekeepers have been open-sourcing from the beginning."

Earlier, the conference was welcomed to Texas by Drew DeBerry, Deputy Commissioner of the Texas Department of Agriculture. He told beekeepers that all agricultural producers shared their problems that put pressure on agriculture – urbanization crowding out farming, competition from imports, labor issues and non-farmers not understanding farming. He told the beekeepers to "go out and tell consumers why your interests are important to them."

The top officers of the three main organizers of the conference gave a bit of insight as to what they were thinking. David Mendes, ABF president, gave a "best of times, worst of times" view. He noted that despite all the problems besetting beekeepers, honey prices are high and pollination is in great demand, "if we can keep our bees alive." Kenny Haff, AHPA president, recalled past accomplishments and looked forward to future challenges. Corey Bacon, CHC chairman, also recalled the Canadian bee and honey industry's past and related how they had cooperated to restructure and had made great progress, including stronger ties between the groups, as well as with government agencies.

A view of how U.S. beekeepers were faring on the legislative front in Washington, D.C., was presented by Fran Boyd, the ABF's Washington representative, and Richard Adee, chairman of the AHPA's legislative committee. Boyd reviewed the changes brought by the November elections, especially the Republicans' gaining control of the House of Representatives. He said, "The education load will be amazing to deal with," as beekeepers work to inform new Congressmen and new staffers about the beekeeping industry and its issues. Adee echoed Boyd's call to action and outlined the need for legislative contributions. "The viability of this industry depends a lot on what takes place in Washington."

Various meetings and workshops kept attendees informed and engaged throughout the five-day conference.

ICE Agents Say More Transshipment Cases in the Making

"We have more irons in the fire," Homeland Security investigator Mary Buduris told the beekeepers gathered in Galveston. Her implication was that additional arrests can be expected for so-called "honey laundering," importing honey with fake documents to escape high antidumping duties.

Her "irons in the fire" sentiment was repeated by a fellow agent, Matthew Gauder, during an informal question-and-answer session following the Buduris presentation. He was responding to a questioner who noted that only importers and brokers have been arrested so far. "Will any packers who knowingly purchased the mislabeled product be charged as well?" he was asked. Gauder replied, "We are diligently working. There are more [arrests] to come in 2011. We are looking at everyone we believe is responsible."

Buduris pointed out the various arrests and guilty pleas that had been made in the since she spoke to the 2010 Orlando conference. She said the cases that had been made against the Alfred L. Wolff Company and affiliated persons took over three years to complete and constituted the largest food fraud case in the United States. As she did last year, Buduris challenged honey producers selling to packers to "have an open discussion with the packers or cooperative where you sell your honey" to see that all the honey they buy is properly sourced and labeled.

SPECIAL THANKS

The ABF would like to take the opportunity to recognize the following dedicated members for their role in special activities that took place during the recent ABF annual conference in Galveston.

- ***Lance and Patty Sundberg*** – 2011 ABF Sweepstakes coordinators
- ***Patty Sundberg*** – 2011 ABF Silent Auction coordinator
- ***Mary Kettlewell*** – 2011 American Honey Show coordinator
- ***Tim Tucker*** – ABF Membership and Marketing Committee chair and ABF membership booth coordinator

Thank you all for helping to make these events a resounding success for the ABF!

2011 American Honey Show Features the Best of the Best

ABF members **James and Karen Belli**, of **Wadsworth, Illinois**, and **Liz Vaenoski**, of **Clinton, Wisconsin**, took top honors at the 2011 American Honey Show. Jim and Karen's White Honey won Best of Show – Honey, and Liz's Artistic Beeswax received Best of Show – Related Items.

The winners were among 24 entrants in the show, which was held during the 2011 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow in Galveston, Texas. The entries were auctioned to benefit the American Honey Queen Program. The winning entries were:

CLASS A – WATER WHITE HONEY
SPONSOR – Sioux Honey Association
1. James & Karen Belli – Wadsworth, IL
2. Charles Lorence – Aurora, IL

CLASS B – EXTRA WHITE HONEY
SPONSOR – Dutch Gold Honey, Inc.
1. Judy & Lloyd Schmaltz – Clarkston, MI
2. James & Karen Belli – Wadsworth, IL
3. Charles Lorence – Aurora, IL

CLASS C – WHITE HONEY
SPONSOR – Golden Heritage Foods LLC
1. James & Karen Belli – Wadsworth, IL
2. Duane Rekeweg – Decatur, IL
3. Carmen Conrad – Canal Winchester, OH

CLASS D – EXTRA LIGHT AMBER HONEY
SPONSOR – Pierco, Inc.
1. Russell Swinney – Plano, TX
2. Janet Rowe – Wylie, TX
3. Charles Lorence – Aurora, IL

CLASS E – LIGHT AMBER HONEY
SPONSOR – Ashurst's American Honey & Beekeeping
1. James & Karen Belli – Wadsworth, IL
2. Carmen Conrad – Canal Winchester, OH
3. Janet Rowe – Wylie, TX

CLASS F – AMBER HONEY
SPONSOR – Burleson's, Inc.
1. Lee Del Signore – Goulds, FL
2. Tim Tucker – Niotaze, KS
3. Janet Rowe – Wylie, TX

CLASS G – DARK HONEY
SPONSOR – Glorybee Foods, Inc.
1. Russell Swinney – Plano, TX
2. Charles Lorence – Aurora, IL
3. Tim Tucker – Niotaze, KS

CLASS H – CHUNK HONEY
SPONSOR – *The Speedy Bee*
No entries submitted

CLASS I – ROUND COMB SECTIONS
SPONSOR – Ross Rounds, Inc.
1. Dwight & Joan Gunter – Towner, ND
2. Jim Rodenberg – Wolf Point, MT
3. Judy & Lloyd Schmaltz – Clarkston, MI

CLASS J – COMB SECTION HONEY
1. Ray Nicholson – Wadena, MN
2. Jim Rodenberg – Wolf Point, MT
3. Charles Lorence – Aurora, IL

CLASS K – CUT COMB HONEY
SPONSOR – Tropical Blossom Honey Co.
No entries submitted

CLASS L – CREAMED HONEY
SPONSOR – Mann Lake Ltd.
1. Carmen Conrad – Canal Winchester, OH
2. John Piechowski – Redgranite, WI
3. Judy & Lloyd Schmaltz – Clarkston, MI

CLASS M – BEESWAX BLOCK
SPONSOR – Dadant & Sons
1. Duane Rekeweg – Decatur, IN
2. Virginia Webb – Clarkesville, GA
3. Charles Lorence –Aurora, IL

CLASS N – ARTISTIC BEESWAX
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FRESH

(continued from page 3)

representative showing up to "help you," but the EPA is making a very large effort to "hear" your stories. If beekeepers are unwilling or unable to speak up for themselves, it becomes much more difficult to sort out where the problem areas are. Feel free to contact me or other members of the NHBAB and we will be glad to connect you to the right people at EPA. I will also try to get contact info on the ABF Web site soon.

ABF Recognizes Outstanding Contributions to Beekeeping During Annual Conference

By Robin E. Dahlen, ABF Executive Director

Each year during the North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow, the ABF takes the time to recognize a member for his or her "outstanding and significant contributions to the leadership of the ABF and the U.S. beekeeping and honey industry" with the presentation of the ABF President's Award. Past recipients of this award include such long-term members as Gene Brandi, Binford Weaver, Liz Vaenoski and others. These individuals all possess a deep respect and passion for beekeeping and the honey bee, and the 2011 recipients of this prestigious award are no different – **Randy Johnson**, of **Nampa, Idaho**, and **Troy Fore**, of **Jesup, Ga**.

Pat Heitkam (right) accepts the 2011 President's Award on behalf of Randy Johnson from ABF President Dave Mendes.

Randy Johnson – Johnson was born in a small, Midwestern town and from his early childhood days he displayed a strong personal discipline and willingness to take on responsibilities far beyond his years. By age 13, he was working on a hay crew away from home in order to earn money to send to his family. In the fall of 13th year, his family moved to Portland, Ore., where his father worked in the shipyards. At age 16, Johnson attended high school during the day and also worked the swing shift at the shipyards. By age 17, he was in his freshman year in college, paying his own way, and was due to be drafted on his 18th birthday. A month ahead of this birthday he enlisted in the Navy and served on a ship as a motor machinist mate in the South Pacific for two and a half years.

Upon returning from World War II, Johnson re-enrolled in Oregon State University in the School of Food Technology. He also returned to the "girl he left behind" and they married in the fall of his senior year. Johnson then earned a degree in food technology and remained another year to study in the School of Business Administration.

Johnson's father once remarked that "his son never met a responsibility that he was not willing to accept." Johnson was president of a large youth group while in high school, president of the Food Technology Students Organization while in college, president of a Rotary Club, sat on the board of a community center foundation in Chicago, and spent his three weeks worth of vacation time as an administrator of a large Boy Scout camp for scouts from the Chicago area.

After over 23 years working for an international food processing company, he decided that he no longer wanted to spend 60 percent of his time flying to 18 food processing plants throughout the world. He resigned and purchased a beekeeping "outfit" in 1973 and became a beekeeper. Since that time, he has been very productively involved with Honeygold Corporation, pollinating crops and producing honey. Johnson also served as president of the Idaho Honey Association, on many committees with the ABF, president of the ABF, president and one of the founders of the National Honey Board, and founder and president of the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees.

Betty and Randy Johnson

Throughout his life, Johnson worked in the U.S., Cuba, Puerto Rico, Africa, France, the U.K. and Spain while in the food processing business, and in the U.S., Russia and Armenia while in beekeeping. He has been married for over 62 years to Betty and has three children, two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

"Randy Johnson is a past president of ABF and was one of the primary forces behind the formation of the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees," notes Dave Mendes, ABF president. "His commitment to ABF over the years has set a high standard for the rest of us."

Troy Fore – Fore was raised in a beekeeping family and took over the family business in 1965. In 1972, he began publishing *The Speedy Bee*, which today is distributed to over 1,500 beekeepers and industry insiders four times per year.

As Fore would say, he was "everything" in the Georgia Beekeepers Association, including multiple years in the role of president. In addition, Fore served as an ABF Delegate from Georgia for several years and then was a member of the ABF Board of Directors.

He was then named ABF executive director in 1988, a role most easily recognized by ABF members. In 1998, Fore was instrumental in the development of the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees and became executive director of the organization, a role he maintains today. In 2009, Troy shifted gears and took on the vital role of director of government relations for the ABF – no easy task considering the importance of placing the honey bee and beekeeping industry issues at the forefront of the minds of the decision makers in Congress.

Troy Fore (right) accepts the 2011 President's Award from ABF President Dave Mendes.

On a personal note, Fore and his wife and business partner, Mary, have been married for 46 years, and he has two sons and two grandchildren who certainly keep him very busy.

"Troy Fore has been a steady presence at the ABF for many years, first as a member, then executive director, and now as director of government relations," notes ABF President Dave Mendes. "Troy's experience and skill have benefitted the Federation numerous times. We have been very lucky to have him at ABF."

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Foundation Update

By Troy Fore, Executive Director, Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees

Robinson Memorial Gifts to Foundation

In Galveston, donations were made to the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees in memory of former ABF Secretary-Treasurer Frank Robinson. Presenting checks to Joan Gunter, chairperson of the Foundation Trustees, are, on the left, David Mendes, and, on the right, Linda, David and Davey Hackenberg.

Foundation Awards Six Graduate Student Scholarships

The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees awarded $2,000 scholarships to six graduate students who are doing research in apiculture. The stipends enabled the student-researchers to attend the 2011 North American Beekeeping Conference and present their research to the American Bee Research Conference. This is the Foundation's sixth year to award such scholarships, which are intended to foster professional development for young apicultural scientists. At the conference, they had opportunities to meet other researchers and beekeepers and to present their research at the meeting. The availability of the 2011 scholarships will be announced in the late summer.

The 2010 scholarship winners and their research activities are:

Veeranan Chaimanee
PhD Student in Applied Microbiology
Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, Chiang Mai University, Thailand
Visiting Scholar at the USDA-ARS Bee Lab, Beltsville, Advisor: Jeff Pettis
Veeranan's studies focus on the impact of Nosema ceranae infection on Apis mellifera and Apis cerana in northern Thailand, where Nosema ceranae is thought to have originated. She will study the distribution, phylogenetic relationship and impact of this disease on the two bee species, and on Apis mellifera queens. Her research will increase our understanding of how N. ceranae infects its original host and how A. cerana might fight off infections. Her studies to determine at what age queens are most vulnerable to infection could help reduce queen infection rates and thus lower queen supercedures.

Tim Ciarlo
PhD Student in Entomology, Penn State University
Advisor: Christopher Mullin
Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) is likely the result of a number of interacting causative factors, one of which is pesticide exposure. Most work on pesticides has focused on the effects of the active ingredients and their metabolites. Tim's work will shed light on the potential hazards of surfactants and adjuvants, the inert ingredients in pesticide formulations that were previously thought to be harmless. He will test if commonly used surfactants and adjuvants affect the learning abilities of foraging bees, which could help explain why bees from CCD-afflicted hives leave the hive and do not return.

Brandon Hopkins
PhD Student in Entomology, Washington State University
Advisor: Walter S. Sheppard
Brandon is researching ways to cryopreserve honey bee semen in liquid nitrogen. Preserving semen has the potential to preserve honey bee genetic diversity for future use. The recent massive losses of colonies attributed to CCD may potentially decrease genetic variation and loss of potentially valuable and rare alleles in our honey bee stocks. Increased genetic diversity directly benefits colonies with

increased fitness and productivity, and reduced parasite and pathogen loads. Brandon will cryopreserve a large stock of honey bee semen in liquid nitrogen for a one-year and test if there are differences between the worker-to-drone ratios of queens inseminated with semen held for various periods.

Bethany Teeters
PhD Student in Entomology, University of Nebraska, Lincoln
Advisor: Marion Ellis
Bethany is using a video-tracking software system, EthoVision® XT, to monitor the activity of worker honey bees treated with sublethal doses of pesticides. Since traditional risk assessments do not adequately account for sublethal effects of pesticides on bees, there is a need for developing and implementing better assessment schemes as part of the product registration process. Her research will help establish links between laboratory and field assessments of acute toxicity and sublethal effects on behavior. She will monitor synergistic effects of imidacloprid and other pesticides or antibiotics on the behavior of workers and queens in the laboratory. The behaviors she will video will be the amount of time treated bees interact with each other and their time spent in feeding.

Brenna Traver
PhD in Entomology, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Advisor: Rick Fell
The goal of Brenna's research is to gain a better understanding of Nosema ceranae infection cycles so that beekeepers can be advised on how best to manage N. ceranae infections. She will determine the annual infection cycles of N. ceranae in Virginia so beekeepers know when the infection is likely to be at its highest so treatments can be administered at the optimal time of the year. She will also determine whether drones and/or queens are involved in the transmission of N. ceranae and if transmission can occur through a vegetative stage.

Wanyi Zhu
PhD in Entomology, Penn State University
Advisor: James Frazier
Wanyi will develop a stage-structured matrix population model to predict the combined roles of nutrition and pesticides on honey bee colony health. The study will model the stable population dynamics of a honey bee colony population. Then it will test if the colony can continue to function properly if negative stressors from nutrition and/or pesticides singly or simultaneously take a toll on some stages. Finally, it will test if colony stability can be regained by supplemental nutrition. The long-term result of this research may be the development of beekeeper friendly "tools" to monitor and use nutritional supplements to maintain healthy hives.

Foundation Donations

The following ABF members made general contributions to the ABF Foundation during the months of November and December 2010.

Donna Brooks, Ga.
P. Cappiello, N.Y.
Conrad Bee Pollination, Calif.
M. Jessica Cox, Bermuda
Judith Doan, N.Y.
Michael J. Ebersole, Ariz.
Beth Hackenberg, Pa.
Margie J. Haley, Texas
George K. Hansen, Ore.
Jonathan D. King, S.C.
Kona Queen Hawaii, Inc., Hawaii
Charles and Karen Lorence, Ill.
Holly MacDonald, N.Y.
Daniel Malmgren, Minn.
Sabine Creek Honey Farm, Texas
William Sirr, Mich.
A.M. Stedina, Idaho
Strachan Apiaries, Inc., Calif.
Arnold Stradinger, N.D.
William T. Wilson, Utah

Queen Committee Report

By Anna Kettlewell, Honey Queen Program Chair

On behalf of the American Honey Queen Committee, I welcome our 2011 American Honey Queen Teresa Bryson of Pennsylvania and our 2011 American Honey Princess Allison Adams of Texas to the ABF family. These two young women will have a busy year representing us at promotional and educational events.

Our annual conferences are always a very busy time for the Queen Committee. I want to thank every member of the American Honey Queen Committee for their hard work at this conference and throughout the year. Their work makes the program run smoothly each year and makes it as successful as it is. I also extend the committee's gratitude to every attendee of the conference who purchased raffle tickets from our queens, participated in the American Honey Show, bid on and purchased honey from the American Honey Show, Quiz Bowl and banquet auctions, and who assisted the program in any way at the conference.

At our annual Queen Committee meeting at the conference, we updated some of the contest rules to make them clearer to future candidates and revised our manual. The revisions are available to view on the ABF's Web site under the American Honey Queen Program page. The Queen program will also expand its promotional reach through various social media mechanisms this year. In addition to continuing the blog created by our 2010 American Honey Queen Lisa Schluttenhofer (www.buzzingacrossamerica.com), the American Honey Queen Program will have a fan page on Facebook and hopes to launch the use of Twitter soon after the Facebook page has been established. Please check us out at these sites!

Our 2010 promotional year was extremely successful. While we did not reach our goal of visiting 30 unique states, 2010 American Honey Queen Lisa Schluttenhofer and Princess Amy Roden reached 28 unique states and the District of Columbia. They also made several repeat trips to various states. Their work was extremely impressive; together, they garnered approximately $270,000 worth of free media publicity for the beekeeping industry. They exceeded their work goals for the ABF in every category.

The Queen Committee is eager to continue this successful year of work, but we need your help. We again want to strive for a goal of reaching 30 unique states for promotional visits. We have a good start and the calendar is beginning to fill, but we need to hear from you to arrange a promotional visit. Promotions are not limited to a county fair or a big event. The Queen and Princess will gladly come to your community to visit local schools and civic groups, participate in garden shows and store promotions, visit with legislators and give in-studio interviews. Promotional trips vary in length; some are over a weekend, while others extend to a week. They will visit your state, big or small.

Queen Teresa (left) and Princess Allison (right) teach Galveston children about honey bees at the ABF's Kids and Bees Expo at the 2011 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow.

Teresa and Allison have already hit the ground running on their promotions, having just completed their media training session in late January in Iowa. I extend a big thank you to Louann Hausner for making the arrangements to make the training session yet another success! They are ready and eager to visit your state soon and to reach the goals that they have set for the year. Please contact me as soon as possible to start planning your promotion with Queen Teresa or Princess Allison. You may contact me at honeyqueen99@hotmail.com or 414.545.5514 to discuss promotion opportunities and trip requests. Teresa, Allison and I look forward to making our 30-state goal a reality in 2011.

Friends of the Bee Fund Contributions

The following ABF members contributed to the Friends of the Bee Fund during the month of December 2010. These donations enable us to fund educational programs and services that will benefit ABF members and the American beekeeping industry.

- Michael Ebersole, Ariz.
  (In Honor of Charles William Ebersole)
- George K. Hansen, Ore.
- Jake Klingensmith, Texas
- Tracey Middlebrooks, Ga.
- Patricia Opperman, Ga.
  (In Honor of Ray Opperman)
- Charles E. Schaffer, Wash.
- Lance and Patty Sundberg, Mont.
- Ann Zudekoff, Va.

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- Increased use of pesticides affecting all beneficial insects.

With your generous donation you can help protect the honey bee habitat, aid in the fight against Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), encourage government-sponsored research, assist in the battle against adulterated honey in the marketplace and help ensure the continued role of the honey bee in pollinating 1/3 of our food supply.

Become a friend of the bee with your donation of $25, $50 or $100. Donate today and receive a stylish Friends of the Bee bumper sticker…and help us tip the balance back in favor of the honey bee. Contact the ABF at 404.760.2875 for a donation form. Thank you for "bee-friending" the honey bee!

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From the Honey Queen

By Teresa Bryson, 2011 American Honey Queen

Hello fellow beekeepers! My name is Teresa Bryson, and I am your 2011 American Honey Queen. Thank you to the ABF for giving me this incredible opportunity to promote our industry. I am 19 years old and live in Chambersburg, Penn. I am a junior at Hagerstown Community College, where I am double majoring in English and Forensic Science. I am a member of the National Honor Society and have been on the Dean's List for the past two years. I was in 4-H for 10 years and am now a leader in two clubs. My family started beekeeping three years ago because we wanted the bees for pollination. My family has a large garden and, within the first year of having honeybees, we noticed a significant increase in the quantity and quality of the food produced.

Queen Teresa points out the queen bee and her court at the Pennsylvania Farm Show in January.

Since being chosen as your American Honey Queen, I have promoted at several events. Immediately after the 2011 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow in Galveston, Texas, I jetted back to Pennsylvania to attend the Pennsylvania Farm Show in Harrisburg. The Pennsylvania Farm Show is the largest agriculture exposition in the United States. I spent January 10, 14 and 15 at the show, helping in the Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association's ice cream stand. I took orders and answered questions about the different types of honey and the many uses for all-natural honey. In addition, I worked at the Honeybee Learning Center booth, which had two observation hives, skeps and Langstroth hives for the public to view. At this educational booth, I explained to attendees the importance of honey bees for pollination, the many jobs of honey bees and the inner workings of a beehive. I also spoke at two honey extraction demonstrations, assisting with the one. One of these demonstrations was televised live on the Pennsylvania Cable Network, reaching a minimum of two million households. This free media time was valued at approximately $3,600.

From January 28-31, I travelled to Des Moines, Iowa, for training with 2011 American Honey Princess Allison Adams, Anna Kettlewell and Louann Hausner. We had four days of intense work learning the fundamentals of interacting with the media, including developing key messages and setting goals. We also cooked every recipe in the honey recipe brochure and gave school presentations at St. Augustin School. I spoke to first and second graders and reached 53 students about the importance of honey bee pollination, the many uses for honey, and the job and tools of a beekeeper. I even taught them how to waggle dance like honey bees! On the last day of training, Princess Allison and I each had a radio and television interview, valued at approximately $3,200. Thank you to Louann Hausner for hosting us in Iowa and arranging our media visits.

I am looking forward to representing the ABF and the beekeeping industry throughout this year. I am eager to visit your state and help with your promotions. If you would like to invite Princess Allison or me to an event, contact Anna Kettlewell at 414.545.5514 or honeyqueen99@hotmail.com. I'll bee seeing you!

From the Honey Princess

By Allison Adams, 2011 American Honey Princess

What an honor it is to have been chosen as your 2011 American Honey Princess! Thank you so very much for this incredible opportunity. I am looking forward to representing such a remarkable group of people as I promote this wonderful and vitally important industry we are all so passionate about.

I live in Plano, Texas, with my wonderful family and am currently teaching art to elementary and high school students. I first learned about beekeeping from a family friend and neighbor, Sarah Kornfield (who eventually became the 2005 American Honey Queen). My beekeeping adventure officially began about six years ago when I received my first hive of bees through my county beekeeping association's youth scholarship program. Having long been interested in plants, animals and culinary arts, beekeeping has turned out to be a delightful combination of these three loves of mine. I am fascinated by honey bees and have thoroughly enjoyed sharing this fascination with others as 2008 Collin County Honey Princess, 2009 Collin County Honey Queen and 2010 Texas Honey Queen. I am so glad for this opportunity to share the wonder and vital importance of honey bees and beekeeping with our nation.

Princess Allison speaks to kindergarten students about honey bees in Iowa.

My activities as American Honey Princess began when I traveled to Des Moines, Iowa, from January 28-31 for the American Honey Queen and Princess training conducted by 1999 American Honey Queen Anna Kettlewell and 1996 American Honey Princess Louann Hausner. American Honey Queen Teresa Bryson and I began learning how to best promote the beekeeping industry, and our intensive schedule included a wide range of topics, including how to prepare effective presentations for students in all grades, civic organizations, and governmental and legislative meetings. We each developed three key messages carefully designed to educate the public about various aspects of the industry we felt were of particular importance. These will be the messages we emphasize as we share them with as many people as we can reach this year.

An extensive portion of our training focused on media interviews, as the media is an especially effective outlet through which the good word about honey bees can be spoken. Anna and Louann taught us how to approach media personnel to ask for an interview, then how to communicate our messages through print, radio and television interviews. I extend a special thank you to Anna and Louann for an incredible training experience and to our hostess, Louann, for her wonderful hospitality!

On the last day of our training we had an opportunity to put into practice the skills we learned. I gave two presentations to a total of 48 very fascinated kindergarten and third grade students at St. Augustin School. I think the importance of honey bee pollination really hit home when they realized that even ice cream and cheese pizza come to us because of honey bees (alfalfa pollination – dairy cattle feed – milk)! We also paid a visit to Grandview University in Des Moines, where I was interviewed on KDPS 88.1 FM radio and GVTV on several topics, including Colony Collapse Disorder and the differences between the various honey forms and varietals.

I am eagerly anticipating a year of amazing experiences and opportunities as I serve the ABF membership and I hope to meet many of you during my travels! To schedule a visit, please contact Anna Kettlewell at 414.545.5514 or honeyqueen99@hotmail.com.

In Memoriam – Jerry Shaw

Long-time ABF member Jerry Shaw, 74, passed in Mishawaka, Ind., on Thursday, Feb. 3, 2011. Shaw is survived by his wife of over 55 years, Carol, daughter, Beth, and son, Scot, as well as six grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Shaw graduated from Ball State with a BS and MA, and started his teaching career in Wabash County and Grant County prior to coming to Mishawaka. He was an industrial arts teacher at Mishawaka High School for a total of 34 years, before retiring in 1992. He also coached tennis, track and basketball at Mishawaka High School, and was a member of the Mishawaka Education Association.

In addition, Shaw was a farmer and a beekeeper, and a member of Michiana Beekeepers Association and former president of the Indiana State Beekeepers. He was also a member of Indiana Farm Bureau.

"Beekeeping was part of Jerry's life," says Duane Rekeweg, a long-time friend of Shaw. "Jerry helped many beekeepers get started. Every spring he went south to get packages of bees to help out beekeepers with their winter losses. Jerry collected pollen and produced dark mint honey from the Indiana mint fields."

Shaw joined the ABF in the early 1990s. "Jerry was just one of those nice guys that were always around," notes Troy Fore, ABF director of government relations. "He was a Delegate from Indiana for many years, as was Carol when Indiana was eligible for two Delegates. He also helped out at many of the ABF conferences whenever asked and on several occasions served as a judge at the American Honey Show. Both Jerry and Carol were very dedicated to the ABF and the industry."

Shaw loved and collected Shaw Duall Tractors. He was also a member of First United Methodist Church in Mishawaka. Memorial contributions can be made to American Cancer Society, 601 W. Edison, Mishawaka, IN 46545. To leave the family an online condolence or to share memories with the family, please visit hahnfuneralhomes.com.

Have You Caught the Buzz?

The ABF recently introduced the *ABF E-Buzz* electronic newsletter, which is sent monthly to all ABF members via e-mail. *ABF E-Buzz* is a member benefit and is published to inform members about ABF activities, as well as key happenings in the beekeeping industry. If you haven't been receiving the newsletter, please be sure to contact the ABF office at info@abfnet.org or 404.760.2875 to ensure we have your most up-to-date contact information. Also, if you wish to contribute content to the newsletter, please contact Tim Tucker, *ABF E-Buzz* editor, at tuckerb@hit.net. We welcome your submissions!

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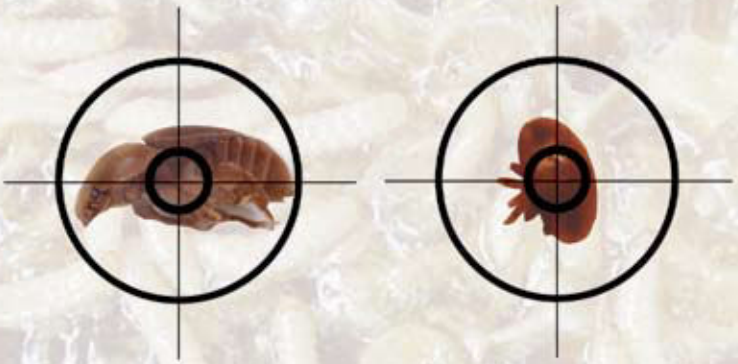

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Kids and Bees Program a Huge Hit in Texas

By Kim Lehman, Kids and Bees Program Coordinator

Galveston, Texas, was buzzing about all the educational programs the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees presented in the community during the first week of January 2011. In conjunction with the 2011 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow, we were able to offer programs in four different locations reaching over 900 students, teachers, parents and other interested adults.

Over 32 volunteers, from various Texas beekeeping associations to conference attendees to Honey Queens and Princesses past and present, came out in full force to help with this interactive, hands-on program for school, home school and child care groups. Shirley Acevedo, Don Angle and Rachael Seida (2008 American Honey Queen) worked together with me to make the Kids and Bees Program a huge success. They were incredible!

The program included over 11 different areas for the public to learn more about honey bees, including bee biology, pollination, beekeeping, honey and so much more. Honey Queens and Princesses worked hard as "tour guides," leading groups around to the different activities.

In addition to the outstanding turnout at the Galveston Convention Center, I was able to do a number of other programs while in the area:

- **Rosenberg Library**: The Rosenberg Library graciously offered their meeting room space for a program. They did an incredible job promoting the program to the public and scheduling groups of school children to come and learn more about bees.

- **Hitchcock Elementary**: Young children at this school were treated to an assembly program followed by hands-on activities including microscopes, honey tasting, bee suits, bee puppets, candle making, products of the hive and pollination games. The next day we received this e-mail: "Well, it did not take long for a student to tell his mom about the wonderful program on bees. The mom called me because she has about six honey combs (according to her information) in her yard and is wondering if you know anyone who could remove them without killing the bees." We were able to connect her with Jennifer Scott, a local beekeeper.

- **Parker Elementary**: Kindergarten and first grade students ended their week learning about honey bees in a participatory assembly program that included music and loads of fun.

Special thanks to the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees and the Texas Commission on the Arts for supporting these programs. Also thank you to all the volunteers that helped at the Kids and Bees Program at the Galveston Convention Center. We are so sorry if we missed anyone:

- **Harris County Beekeepers**: Don Angle; Jennifer Scott; Bill Busch; Harold Kristof; Norton White; George Rodriguez; Wesley Hughes; Lauren Babcock; Clyde Hughes; Kay Ellis; and Ed Michalik.

- **Honey Queens and Princesses**: Lisa Schluttenhoffer (2010 American Honey Queen); Amy Roden (2010 American Honey Princess); Teresa Bryson (2011 American Honey Queen); and Allison Adams (2011 American Honey Princess).

- **Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Association**: Rachael Seida; Anna Seida; Garrett Swinney; Jessica Sweeney; Russell Swinney; Wanda Mansker; Kaylynn Mansker; Tabitha Mansker; Hannah Mansker; and Shirley Acevedo.

- **From the Conference**: Rachel Bryson; Becky Mehringer; Lawrence Dubois; Alan Baldwin; Danielle Dale; Jayla Gillaspie; and Jayma Gillaspie.

- **ABF Staff**: Robin Dahlen; Amanda Hammerli; Tara Zeravsky; Christine Hilgert; and Troy Fore.

It is an honor to work with such conscientious, knowledgeable beekeepers and industry supporters!

Milestones

Congratulations to the following ABF members that have reached milestone years during the months of December 2010 and January 2011:

10 Years
Ron Bacon, Canada
Janice Gaglione, Mass.
Peter Sliwka, Pa.

15 Years
Kenneth Ashurst, Calif.
David Boise, N.Y.
Jimmy Carmack, Ala.
George Hansen, Ore.
Don Johnston, Minn.
Paul Sasseville, Fla.

20 Years
Rob Brandi, Calif.
Ilene Miller, Utah

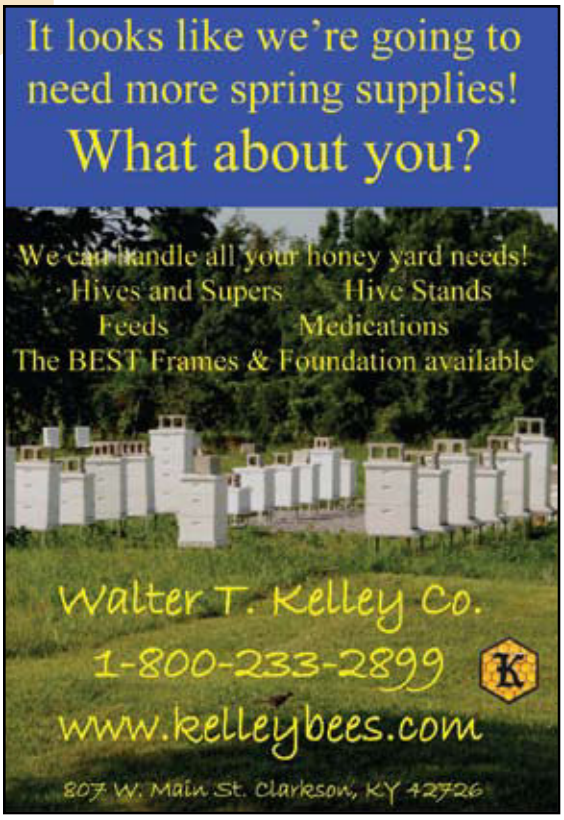
25 Years
Rob Buhmann, Mont.
Susan Cobey, Calif.
Daniel Kaminski, Ohio

30 Years
Alan King, N.D.

35 Years
Ronald Fischer, Ill.
Thomas Muncey, Nev.

45 Years
Hachiro Shimanuki, Fla.

60 Years
Raymond Nicholson, Minn.
Oliver Petty, Ore.



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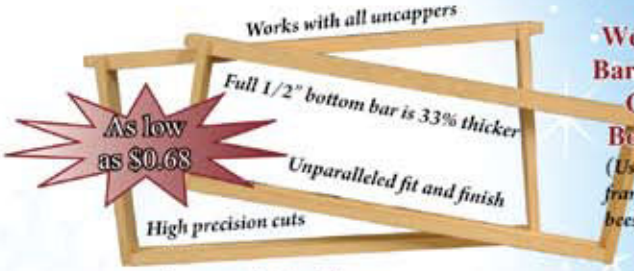

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From the Auxiliary

by Shelley Rodenberg, ABF Auxiliary President

The "Together for a Sweet Future" Northern American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow held in January 2011 in Galveston, Texas, was a big success! It was a great time to renew friendships and make new ones. A lot of information was shared by all the groups and members. I think it's a benefit to all when we come together as an industry. During the conference we had quite a few entries in our cooking and photo contests. Thank you to all that participated. Start thinking and preparing for your entries for next year in Las Vegas.

Now we have made it through all of the year-end things that needed to be done and are looking forward to 2011. I know a lot of us have our bees down South for the winter. I hope that most of you are having good luck with the health of your bees. We are experiencing our challenges, but hopefully it will turn around for the rest of the year. I'm sure many of you are growing tired of this winter weather and are looking forward to spring. Be sure to try the outstanding recipe that placed in our cooking contest this year.

Honey Scotcheroo Bars
by Carol Kuehl

- *3/4 c. sugar*
- *1 c. HONEY*
- *1 c. peanut butter*
- *6 c. Rice Krispies*

Mix sugar and HONEY in saucepan and bring to boil. Remove from heat and add peanut butter. Stir until thoroughly mixed. Add Rice Krispies. Mix until coated. Spread in 9x13 pan. Melt 1 - 6 oz. package each of chocolate and butterscotch chips. Spread over bars. Cut before frosting cools completely.

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MISCELLANEOUS

ABF Auxiliary 701.537.5214
Secretary/Treasurer, Beth Hackenberg, 799 Grange Hall Rd., Milton, PA 17847. The Auxiliary is asking for contributions for the American Honey Queen Fund of 2 cents per day for a year. This will make additional funds available for our American Honey Queen Diane Jurchen and American Honey Princess Allison Hull. Let's help make this the best year in honey promotion.

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Interested in advertising in the Federation Marketplace?
Contact Robin E. Dahlen, CAE, ABF executive director, at 404.760.2875 or robindahlen@abfnet.org.

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2012 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow

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Start planning now to ensure your spot at the 2012 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow.

Watch for details on the ABF Web site at: www.nabeekeepingconference.com.